

Environmental Science

DETERMINATION OF NITRATE AND AMMONIUM ION CONCENTRATIONS IN THE
CERESCO PRAIRIE CONSERVATORY

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The Ceresco Prairie contains four fields on which *Andropogon gerardii* and *Sorghastrum nutans* are the predominate forms of grass. Two of the fields grow predominately *Andropogon gerardii*, while the remaining two fields predominately grow *Sorghastrum nutans*. The fields were tested for nitrogen, more specifically ammonium ions and nitrate ions in hopes of determining whether or not one species of grass requires more nitrogen to survive and thus prevents the other species from growing. The levels of ammonium ions and of nitrate were determined using the Kjeldahl Reaction and a nitrate selective ion electrode. In addition the two species will tested *in vitro* to determine competitive inhibition.